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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :  
Liu et al. :  
Application No. 10/731,594 :  
Filed: December 8, 2003 :  
Attorney Docket No. 21437US2 :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.10(d), filed November 8, 2004, requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of December 9, 2003, rather than the presently accorded filing date of December 8, 2003.

Petitioner asserted that the filing date was erroneously recorded as evidenced by the return receipt postcard, the certification of under 37 CFR 1.10, the Utility Patent Application Transmittal, and the Fee Sheet, all indicating a date of December 9, 2003.

Paragraph (a) of 37 CFR 1.10 states that:

Any correspondence received by the Patent and Trademark Office (Office) that was delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be considered filed in the Office on the date of deposit with the USPS. The date of deposit with the USPS is shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation. If the USPS deposit date cannot be determined, the correspondence will be accorded the Office receipt date as the filing date. See §1.6(a) (Emphasis added).

Paragraph (d) of 37 CFR 1.10 states that:

Any person filing correspondence under this section that was received by the Office and delivered

by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the USPS, who can show that the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official notation entered by the USPS was incorrectly entered or omitted by the USPS, may petition the Commissioner to accord the correspondence a filing date as of the date the correspondence is shown to have been deposited with the USPS provided that:

- (1) The petition is filed promptly after the person becomes aware that the Office has accorded, or will accord, a filing date based upon an incorrect entry by the USPS;
- (2) The number of the "Express Mail" mailing label was placed on the paper(s) and fee(s) that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by "Express Mail;" and
- (3) The petition includes a showing, which establishes, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, that the requested filing date was the date the correspondence was deposited in "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service prior to the last scheduled pickup for that day. Any showing pursuant to this paragraph must be corroborated by evidence from the USPS or that came into being after deposit and within one business day of the deposit of the correspondence in the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the USPS.

The present petition lacks the showing required by item (3) above.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.10(d) must include "a showing which establishes, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, that the requested filing date was the date the correspondence was deposited in 'Express Mail Post Office to Addressee' service prior to the last scheduled pickup for that day." In addition, the showing "must be corroborated by evidence from the USPS or that came into being after deposit and within one business day of the deposit of the correspondence in the 'Express Mail Post Office to Addressee' service of the USPS." Evidence from the USPS may be, for example, the Express Mail Corporate Account Mailing Statement or a statement by an appropriate official of the USPS that according to a USPS record the "date-in" on petitioner's Express Mail receipt is erroneous, accompanied by a copy of the relevant USPS record. Evidence that came into being within one day after the deposit of the correspondence as Express

Mail may be, for example, a log book which contains information such as the Express Mail label number; the application number, attorney docket number or other such file identification number; the place, date and time of deposit; the time of the last scheduled pick-up for that date and place of deposit; the depositor's initials or signature; and the date and time of the log book entry.

Regarding the present petition, petitioner has failed to submit evidence from the USPS or that came into being after deposit and within one business day of the deposit of the correspondence in the "Express Mail" service, which corroborates the allegation that the application was, in fact, deposited with the USPS on December 9, 2003, before the last scheduled pick-up for that day. Therefore, the application will be accorded the date-in indicated on the USPS Express Mail label as the date the application was accepted by the USPS (December 8, 2003). The filing date for the above-identified application will remain December 8, 2003.

The \$130.00 petition fee is unnecessary and will be credited to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

Accordingly, the petition is **dismissed**.

Any request for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS of the date of this decision in order to be considered timely. See 37 CFR 1.181(f).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows and to the **attention of Senior Petitions Attorney Christina Tartera Donnell**:

By mail:           Mail Stop Petition  
                    Commissioner for Patents  
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                    Alexandria, VA 22314

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 1624 for examination in due course with the presently accorded filing date of December 8, 2003.

Telephone inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

*Christina Tartera Donnell*

Christina Tartera Donnell  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
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